REMARKS

Amendments

Claims 1, 3-20, and 23-24 have been amended to place the claims in accordance with U.S. patent practice, and to reflect amendments entered in the international stage of application PCT/SE00/01310, of which the instant application is the U.S. national stage. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate embodiments of the inventions deleted from original claims 2, 16, and 19. Thus, amended claim 16 is now directed solely to exemplary embodiments of the modifying agent, and amended claim 19 now recites solely the ratio between the modifying agent and the water-insoluble polymer. Claims 2, 21, and 22 have been canceled.

New claim 25 is directed to an embodiment of the invention wherein the dosage form is filled in a capsule. Support for claim 23 is found on page 5, lines 12-13, and page 9, lines 3-4. New claim 26 is directed to an embodiment of the invention wherein the dosage form is compressed into a tableted dosage form. Support for claim 26 is found on page 9, lines 3-10.

No new matter is introduced by any of the amendments herein.

CONCLUSION

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 3-20, and 23-26 are pending. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-20, and 23-26 are directed to patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants request allowance of the claims.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any fee in connection with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Claims 1, 3-20, and 23-24- Version with markings to show changes made

1. (Amended) An oral pharmaceutical dosage form comprising a core material coated with a semipermeable membrane, wherein:

the core material comprises an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of omeprazole, an alkaline salt thereof, *S*-omeprazole and an alkaline salt thereof, [in admixture with] one or more alkaline additives, one or more swelling agents, and optionally pharmaceutically acceptable excipients; [,]

the membrane comprises a water-insoluble polymer and a modifying agent and is able to disrupt; and the dosage form is not enteric coated.

3. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is omeprazole.

4. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is a magnesium salt of omeprazole having a crystallinity of more than 70% as determined by X-ray powder diffraction.

5. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is a magnesium salt of *S*-omeprazole.

6. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the core material comprises a sugar sphere layered with a suspension or solution of the active ingredient, one or more alkaline additives, one or more swelling agents and optionally pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

7. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the dosage form comprises individual pellets of the core material coated with the semipermeable membrane.

8. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the core material [comprises a] further comprises [component in the form of] an osmotic agent.

9. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the alkaline additive [is an agent selected from the group of compounds that] gives a pH of not less than 8.5 when measured in a 2% w/w water solution/dispersion with a pH-measuring electrode.

10. The [A] dosage form according to claim 9, wherein the alkaline additive is [an agent] selected from the group consisting of disodium hydrogen phosphate, trisodium phosphate, arginine and talc.

11. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the alkaline additive is present in an amount of approximately 5 to 35% by weight of the core material excluding the weight of an optional sugar sphere.

12. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the alkaline additive is present in an amount of 15 to 35% by weight of the core material excluding the weight of an optional sugar sphere.

13. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the swelling agent is selected from the group consisting of crosslinked polyvinyl pyrrolidone, crosslinked sodium carboxymethylcellulose, sodium starch glycolate and low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose (L-HPC).

14. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the swelling agent is present in an amount of approximately 20 to 60% by weight of the core material excluding the weight of an optional sugar sphere.

15. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the swelling agent is present in an amount of 30 to 50% by weight of the core material excluding the weight of an optional sugar sphere.

16. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the [semipermeable membrane comprises a water insoluble polymer and a] modifying agent is [such as] talc or fumed silica.

17. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the water insoluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of ethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl acetate, and ammonio methacrylate copolymer type A and type B.

18. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the water insoluble polymer is present in an amount of approximately 3-30% by weight of the core material.

19. The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the [semipermeable membrane comprises a] modifying agent and [a] water insoluble polymer are in a ratio of between 90:10 and 50:50.

20. A process for the manufacture of a dosage form as defined in claim 1, comprising forming [wherein] a core material comprising [is formed comprises] an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of omeprazole, an alkaline salt thereof, *S*-omeprazole and an alkaline salt thereof, [in admixture with] one or more alkaline additives, one or more swelling agents, and

optionally pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, and coating the core material [is coated] with a semipermeable membrane, wherein the dosage form [and] has no enteric coating.

23. A method for improving inhibition of gastric acid secretion which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof, an oral pharmaceutical dosage form according to any one of claims 1 or 3-19 [as defined in any of claims 1 – 19].

24. A method for improving the therapeutic effect in the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders associated with excess acid secretion which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof, an oral pharmaceutical dosage form according to any one of claims 1 or 3-19 [as defined in any of claims 1 – 19].

25 (New) An oral dosage form according to any one of claims 1 or 3-19 filled in a capsule.

26. (New) An oral dosage form according to any one of claims 1 or 3-19 compressed into a multiple unit tableted dosage form, optionally comprising tablet excipients.

Amended Claims

1. An oral dosage form comprising a core material coated with a semipermeable membrane comprising a water-insoluble polymer and a modifying agent, said semipermeable membrane being able to disrupt, and wherein the core material comprises an active ingredient selected from the group of omeprazole, an alkaline salt thereof, *S*-omeprazole and an alkaline salt thereof, in admixture with one or more alkalizing agents, one or more swelling agents, and optionally pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, and which dosage form is not enteric coated.

2. A dosage form according to claim 1 wherein the active ingredient is omeprazole.

3. A dosage form according to claim 1 wherein the active ingredient is a magnesium salt of omeprazole having a crystallinity of more than 70% determined by X-ray powder diffraction.

4. A dosage form according to claim 1 wherein the active ingredient is magnesium salt of *S*-omeprazole.

5. A dosage form according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the core material comprises a sugar sphere layered with a suspension or solution of the active ingredient, one or more alkalizing agents, one or more swelling agents and optionally pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

6. A dosage form according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the dosage form comprises individual pellets of the core material coated with the semipermeable membrane.

7. A dosage form according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the core material comprises a further component in the form of an osmotic agent.

8. A dosage form according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein the alkalizing agent is an agent selected from the group of compounds that give a pH of not less than 8.5 when measured in a 2% w/w water solution/dispersion with a pH-measuring electrode.

9. A dosage form according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein the alkalizing agent is an agent selected from the group of disodium hydrogen phoshate, trisodium phosphate, arginine and talc.

10. A dosage form according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein the alkalizing agent is present in an amount of approximately 5 to 35 % by weight of the core material excluding the weight of an optional sugar sphere.

11. A dosage form according to claim 10 wherein the alkalizing agent is present in an amount of 15 to 35 % by weight of the core material excluding the weight of an optional sugar sphere.

12. A dosage form according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein the swelling agent is selected from the group of crosslinked polyvinyl pyrrolidone, crosslinked sodium carboxymethylcellulose, sodium starch glycolate and low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose (L-HPC).

13. A dosage form according to any one of claims 1-12, wherein the swelling agent is present in an amount of approximately 20 to 60 % by weight of the core material excluding the weight of an optional sugar sphere.

14. A dosage form according to claim 13 wherein the swelling agent is present in an amount of 30 to 50 % by weight of the core material excluding the weight of an optional sugar sphere.

15. A dosage form according to any one of claims 1-14, wherein the modifying agent is talc or fumed silica.

16. A dosage form according to any one of claims 1-15, wherein the water insoluble polymer is selected from the group of ethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl acetate, and ammonio methacrylate copolymer type A and type B.

17. A dosage form according to any one of claims 1-16, wherein the water insoluble polymer is present in an amount of approximately 3-30% by weight of the core material.

18. A dosage form according to any one of claims 1-17, wherein the semipermeable membrane comprises a modifying agent and a water insoluble polymer in a ratio of between 90:10 and 50:50.

19. A process for the manufacture of a dosage form as defined in claim 1, wherein a core material comprising an active ingredient selected from the group of omeprazole, an alkaline salt thereof, *S*-omeprazole and an alkaline salt thereof, in admixture with one or more alkaline additives, one or more swelling agents, and optionally pharmaceutically acceptable excipients is formed, the core material is coated with a semipermeable membrane being able to disrupt and which dosage form has no enteric coating.

20. Use of an oral pharmaceutical dosage form as defined in any one of claims 1 - 18 in the manufacture of a medicament with improved inhibition of gastric acid secretion.

21. Use of an oral pharmaceutical dosage form as defined in any one of claims 1 - 18 in the manufacture of a medicament with improved therapeutic effect in the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders associated with excess acid secretion.

22. A method for improving inhibition of gastric acid secretion which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof, an oral pharmaceutical dosage form as defined in any of claims 1 – 18.

23. A method for improving the therapeutic effect in the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders associated with excess acid secretion which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof, an oral pharmaceutical dosage form as defined in any of claims 1 – 18.

24. An oral dosage form according to any one of claims 1-18 filled into a capsule.

25. An oral dosage form according to any one of claims 1-18 optionally mixed with tablet excipients, said dosage form being compressed into a multiple unit tableted dosage form.